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SPECIFICATION

MEDIUM ON WHICH A STATUS INFORMATION PRINTING PROGRAM IS
RECORDED, PRINTER, PRINTING CONTROLLER,
STATUS INFORMATION PRINTING METHOD, AND
STATUS INFORMATION PRINTING SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a medium on which is recorded a status information printing program for printing the status information on a printer. The invention also relates to a printer, a printing controller, a status information printing method, and a status information printing system.

BACKGROUND ART

A printer includes a paper feeder, toner, a photo conductor, and various mechanisms. Various settings like the use of color and the printing resolution are necessary for printing. A user of the printer may need to know the status of the mechanisms mentioned above and settings, that is, the status of the printer. The user may want to know if desired settings have been made before printing. It is convenient for the user to know the remaining toner, the photo conductor life, etc.

A conventional printer is fitted with a status printing

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- instruction button and a processor for generating status information printing data. When the instruction button is pushed, the processor causes the printer to gain its own status information data. Then, the printer generates printing images on the basis of the status information data and prints the data.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

To generate the printing data, the processor needs to perform predetermined processing based on the status information data. For example, a page printer makes printing possible by generating predetermined characters with the font ROM in the printer, and by storing the data corresponding to the printing image in the frame memory.

Thus, in order for the printer itself to print the status information, it needs to be equipped in it with a processor for generating the printing data and a font ROM. If a great amount of processing is performed for the status information, the printing time is long. For a higher printing speed, an advanced processor is necessary, causing the cost of the printer to rise.

In view of the above-mentioned problems, an object of this invention is to provide a medium on which is recorded a status information printing program capable of providing a user with desired status information. Another object of the invention is to provide a simple low-cost printer, a printing controller, a